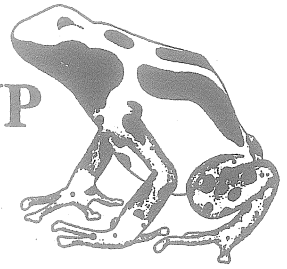


Dendrobates tinctorius
(2 White morph variants)

AMERICAN DENDROBATID GROUP



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Ectotherm Scientific

Newsletter No. 22 July-August 1995

The purpose of the ADG is to develop better communication between Dendrobatid frog breeders in North and South America. It is designed, by its format and bi-monthly distribution, to provide current information and new developments in the hobby. I hope that this information will aid us in solving some of the problems which confront us all. This newsletter appears every other month (6/year) at a cost \$10.00 per calendar year. Back issues for 1992 are available for \$5.00; back issues for 1993 and 1994 are available for \$10.00/year.

Subscriptions, comments, etc. should be sent to Charles Powell (2932 Sunburst Dr., San Jose, CA 95111 Tel.: (408) 363-0926).

Notes from the Editor

This issue of the ADG Newsletter is dedicated to Mantellid frogs. The three articles present deal with why people should be interested in the genus and the fact that many *Mantella* species are more temperature sensitive than poison frogs. *Mantella*'s may soon be covered under CITES making export more difficult and definitely more expensive. So their maintenance and captive propagation should be a matter of utmost importance to dedicated frog keepers. In a future issue we will report on some captive-breeding success with various *Mantella* species in the United States.

The First American Frog (Amphibian) Day will be held in San Jose, California, August 26th from 9 AM to 4 PM. Guest speakers include Danté Fenolio and Mike Reedy (Amphibian Research Group), Jim O'Reilly (Northern Arizona University) and Philippe de Vosjoli (Advanced Vivarium Systems). Please pass the word and if you plan on attending contact the Newsletter editor. Also anyone interested in helping with the convention please contact the Newsletter editor and admission will be free. See you there!

Mantella's - Frogs worth attention

Peter B. Fippinger
Denver Zoo
Denver, Colorado

Back in early 1994, the ADG Newsletter editor asked members if there was interest in expanding the Newsletter to include frogs of the genus *Mantella*. As I have been keeping several species for some time and found information on them very scarce, I let Charles know that I was delighted at this prospect. A subsequent conversation with Charles revealed that the response of other ADG member was less than overwhelming (I believe I was the only response). In my opinion, these beautiful frogs are not only worth keeping, but are in desperate need of captive research and

Shortly after, over a period of two weeks, I lost a total of nine *Mantella* from five separate species. I now attribute their deaths to heat stress before I was able to install air conditioning in my frog room. My frog room currently runs up to 76°F during the day and down to 68°F during the night. Occasionally summer temperatures reach 80°F, but not higher. During the unfortunate two weeks this past summer, daytime temperatures were 85°F to 90°F, while night time temperatures did not drop below 80°F.

I learned several things during this incident. First, do not wait to buy an air conditioner until a heat wave strikes - all the stores will be out of stock. Second and more importantly, I confirmed what could be predicted by studying a climatic map of Madagascar - coastal lowland *Mantella* are more tolerant of high temperatures than central highland species. The majority of frogs I lost were of three species: *M. aurantiaca*, *M. madagascariensis* s.s. (sensu stricto), and *M. cowani*. I lost no specimens of *M. viridis* or *M. expectata* - good candidates for a warm frog room. The one exception to this pattern was *M. laevis* - I lost all three specimens. This species is found in the Maroantseha and Cape Masola region of northeastern Madagascar where temperatures are generally warmer than the central highlands of the Grant Escarpment, but seldom exceed 82°F. It is possible that even though this species is found in a warmer region, it is less tolerant of extreme temperatures (> 90°F).

Another important observation during this incident was that all the deaths occurred after a similar sequence of behaviors. These could be used by other frog keepers to identify temperature intolerance in the future. First all the frogs became lethargic and lost their appetite. The animals then lost muscular control of their front limbs, with loss of motor function of the back limbs following quickly (24-48 hours). The animals occasionally lived an additional 24 hours with no control of their limbs, but generally died earlier on. This is particularly difficult to watch for frogs which you have had for some time. It should be mentioned that all attempts to cool the frogs, at any stage past the initial exposure to heat, did not help. I don't believe that these symptoms are unique to *Mantella* as I have observed the same behavior in *Centrolenella* species under similar conditions.

After this unfortunate incidence occurred, a literature search turned up an article entitled "Mantella deaths" in the British Dendrobatid Group Newsletter (No. 19). Actually that is a summary of an article written by Trevor Rose for "The Rephiberary." Hopefully by sharing my unfortunate incident I can save someone from learning this same lesson the hard way.

***Mantella* deaths**

Malcolm Peaker

Reprinted with permission from the British Dendrobatid Group Newsletter (December 1993), No. 19, p. 5

Trevor Rose has drawn my attention to an article he wrote for "The Rephiberary" on deaths in *Mantella aurantiaca*. He noted that the frogs were found dead in the water bowl or started behaving strangely before death. The frogs were kept at a maximum daytime temperature of 30°C and a night-time minimum of 22°C. I have seen exactly the same problem when I first kept mantella's from the central highlands. As soon as I started keeping them cooler the problem disappeared. That, I know, has been the experience of a lot of keepers and I now don't keep mantella's because my office, even in winter, gets far too hot in the morning sun. Dendrobatids are fine in there, so are lowland Dendrobatids.

HELPFUL HINTS

European Poison Frogs for sale - Hans Zwoferink, Chairman of the Dutch Dendrobatid Group, has several species of poison frog for sale, including: two forms of *D. tinctorius* (yellowback and powder blue), *D. leucomelas*, three forms of *D. auratus* (Panama, Hawaii, and blue), *D. imitator*, two forms of *Epipedobates tricolor* (white and red), and *Phyllobates vittatus*. Prices are in Dutch guilders and do not include transportation. Anyone interested please contact the Newsletter editor.

The Atlanta Botanical Gardens invites all interested parties to a free presentation on poison frogs by Mr. Jack Cover, curator of Hidden Life exhibits, National Aquarium in Baltimore, Thursday September 14, 1995 at 7:30 pm in the Dorothy Chapman Fuqua Conservatory. This presentation is presented in celebration of a new interpretive exhibit of nature's most beautiful and deadly amphibians, which opens Friday, September 15, 1995. The Atlanta Botanical Gardens is open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. Admission is \$6.00 for adults, \$4.50 for seniors and \$3.00 for Children under 12. The garden is located on Piedmont Ave. between 14th Street and Monroe Drive. For more information, call 404-876-5859, ext. 255.

NEW LITERATURE

Dendrobatids

Moffett, Mark W., 1995, Poison-dart frogs lurid and lethal. *National Geographic*, 187(5): 98-111.

Mantellids

Bartlett, Dick, 1995, Mysterious *Mantella* Madagascar's magnificent miniatures. *Reptiles*, 3(2): 16-18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30.

ADS:

Rates for business card adds are \$10 per issue or \$50 per year. If you are interested please contact the Newsletter editor.



Reptile Specialties (John Uhern, 7473 Foothill, Tujunga, CA 91042 Tel. (818) 352-1796; Fax (818) 353-7381) has various captive breed Dendrobatids imported for sale. Write or call for information.

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For Sale

Ads for sale of frogs, or requests or offering of breeding loans, etc. are free to members and will run for one issue only, unless the Newsletter editor is notified.

<i>Dendrobates auratus</i> 'Hawaii'	\$30 ea.	Eric Anderson
<i>Dendrobates leucomelas</i> 'Orange'	\$60 ea.	12231 Newberry Rd.
<i>Dendrobates tinctorius</i> 'Cobalt'	\$50 ea.	Gainesville, FL 32607
<i>Epipedobates tricolor</i> (2 color morphs)	\$50 ea.	(904) 332-7908

<i>Phyllobates vittatus</i>		Will Brown
tadpoles	\$25 ea.	1423 Alabama St.
frogllets	\$35 ea.	Lafayette, IN 47905
	or 5/\$150	(317) 742-5331

Many *Dendrobates tinctorius* morphs and some half grown *Dendrobates leucomelas* 'Orange' (from unrelated females). Also various CB "thumbnail" size unrelated Dendrobatids. Prices are negotiable. Ted R. Kahn (P. O. Box 1375, Sterling, VA 20164-1375. Tel.: (703) 421-9531).

<i>Dendrobates imitator</i>	\$50 ea.	Jim Kee
		662 Country Path Dr.
		New Castle, DE 19720
		(302) 836-6135

<i>Phyllobates vittatus</i>	\$40 ea	Larry J. Marshall
(nice color)		1239 Park Ave.
		Chicago Heights, IL 60411
		(708) 754-7692

<i>Dendrobates tinctorius</i> 'Giant Orange'	\$90 ea	Charles Nishihara
		3271 Pinao St.
		Honolulu, HI 96822
		(808) 988-3420

<i>Dendrobates auratus</i> 'Zwartgroene'	\$50 ea.	Charles Powell
(a Panamanian form which is 80% black)		2932 Sunburst Dr.
<i>Epipedobates tricolor</i> 'Santa Isabel'		San Jose, CA 95111
(bright red and white form)		(408) 363-0926
tadpoles	\$20 ea. (6/\$100)	
juvenile frogs (small)	\$30 ea.	

Wanted:

<i>Dendrobates tinctorius</i> 'Powder blue'	Todd D. Kelley
	1900 Brookland, Apt.. E1
	Ellensburg, WA 98926
	(509) 925-6956
<i>Dendrobates tinctorius</i> 'Powder blue and Cobalt'	Tony Kesslau
females	1231 Main St.
	Springfield, OR 97477
	(503) 741-9105
<i>Dendrobates imitator</i> 'Orange head'	Larry J. Marshall
	1239 Park Ave.
	Chicago Heights, IL 60411
	(708) 754-7692
<i>Dendrobates azureus</i>	Mike Scoggins
	5050 E. Garford, Apt. 62
	Long Beach, CA 90815
	(310) 498-2295
<i>Dendrobates azureus</i> - adults	Daniel Scroggins
	Rt. 2, Box 10-X
	Poteau, OK 74953
	(918) 647-5028

Societies

AMERICAN TARANTULA SOCIETY: For enthusiasts and scientists. Forum magazine (6/yr) educational, entertaining and readable. Over 150 Accurate scientific & common names of tarantulas and scorpions in each issue. Contact: ATS, P. O. Box 2594, S. Padre Island, TX 78597. \$15/year US, \$20 Canada, \$30 elsewhere.

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NEW MEMBERS

Frank Bailey (Kansas)
Darrell Carlson (Pennsylvania)
Juan Casanova (Florida)
Charles Debono (Mad Jungle Reptile Club, California)
Christian Feuillet (Maryland)
Sandra Garcia (California)
Kay Klausing (California)
Stella Lang (Wisconsin)
Lonnie Leonard (Texas)
Russell Nelson (California)
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Richard Stewart (Utah)
Jerry Tresser (New York)